

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-20 (canceled)

Claims 21-24 (withdrawn)

Claim 25 (currently amended):

A saw comprising:

a base configured to rest on a generally horizontal surface to support the saw during operation;

a support structure defining a work surface supported by the base above the generally horizontal surface on which a workpiece may be cut zone;

a rotatable blade adapted to cut a workpiece in on the work zone surface, where the blade has an angular momentum when rotating;

an axis around which the blade rotates;

a motor to drive the blade;

a detection system configured to detect a dangerous condition between a person and the blade; and

a brake system to engage the blade upon detection of the dangerous condition between the person and the blade, and configured to use so that at least part of the angular momentum of the blade to generates a force tending to urge the blade axis around which the blade rotates away from the work surface zone when the brake system engages the blade.

Claim 26 (previously amended): The saw of claim 25, where the brake system is further configured to stop the rotation of the blade.

Claim 27 (currently amended):

A woodworking machine comprising:

a base configured to rest on a generally horizontal surface to support the machine during operation;

a support structure defining a work surface supported by the base above the generally horizontal surface on zone in which a workpiece may be cut;

a rotatable blade adapted to cut the a workpiece in on the work surface zone;

an axis around which the blade rotates;

a motor to drive the blade;

a detection system adapted to detect contact between a person and the blade; and

a brake system adapted to urge the blade axis around which the blade rotates away from the work surface zone upon the detection of the contact.

Claim 28 (withdrawn)

Claim 29 (currently amended): The woodworking machine of claim 27, where the woodworking machine is a mitcr saw, ~~where the support structure includes a base and further comprising~~ a support arm movcable relative to the base, where the blade is mounted on the support arm, and where the brake system is adapted to urge the blade upward relative to the base.

Claim 30 (previously amended): The woodworking machine of claim 27, where the brakc system is further adapted to engage and stop the blade.

Claim 31 (currently amended):

A woodworking machine comprising:

a base configured to rest on a generally horizontal surface to support the machine during operation;

a support structure defining a work surface supported by the base above the generally horizontal surface on zone in which a workpiece may be cut;

a work zone adjacent the work surface;

a blade adapted to move into the work zone to cut the workpiece;

a motor to drive the blade;

a detection system adapted to detect contact between a person and the blade; and

a ~~reaction~~ brake system adapted to limit movement of the blade into the work zone upon the detection of the contact.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The woodworking machine of claim 31, where the woodworking machine is a miter saw, ~~where the support structure includes a base and further comprising a support arm moveable relative to the base, where the blade is mounted on the support arm, where the blade is configured to rotate, where the blade has an angular momentum when rotating, where the brake system includes a pawl to engage the blade, and where at least part of the angular momentum of the blade limits the movement of the blade into the work zone when the pawl engages the blade.~~

Claim 33 (previously amended): The miter saw of claim 32, further comprising a pivot joint between the support arm and base and adapted to allow the support arm to pivot relative to the base, where the blade has a rotational axis, where the blade has a front portion defined as that portion beyond the rotational axis away from the pivot joint, and where the pawl is adapted to engage the blade at a position on the front portion of the blade.

Claim 34 (previously amended): The woodworking machine of claim 31, where the brake system is further adapted to engage and stop the blade.

Claim 35 (new) The saw of claim 25, where the saw is a table saw, where the blade is adapted to extend at least partially up through the work surface, and where the brake system tends to urge the axis around which the blade rotates downward relative to the work surface.